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AP US History

Chapter 2 Questions

1) How were the Caribbean colonies significant in the British-American colonial system?

Well basically, more than half the English migrants coming to the New World settled those islands in the first half of the seventeenth century. The island societies had close ties to English North America from the beginning and influenced the development of the mainland colonies in several ways. In the Caribbean, they built their economies on raising crops for export. In the early years, they failed growing tobacco and cotton, the crop that did grow was sugar. Since there was a high demand for sugar in Europe and sugar could be distilled into rum, there was a booming market ahead for the English. But since sugar was a labor-intensive crop and there weren’t enough natives to use for work, they tried to bring indentured servants from England but the climate change was too much so they eventually used slaves from Africa. By then the West Indies had ceased to be an attraction to ordinary English immigrants; they went to the North American colonies.

2) How did the Glorious Revolution impact the development of the British-American colonies?

Since Sir Edmund Andros was sent and hired by the king to govern the Boston area, and James II was exiled, Bostonians quickly moved to unseat Andros. Andros escaped an angry mob, but he was arrested and imprisoned when he tried to flee the city dressed as a woman. James II had created a single Dominion of New England so they could unite, but after this they restored separate colonial governments; which they wanted; but it wasn’t enough. So in 1691 they combined MA with Plymouth and made it a royal colony which made a new charter which restored the General Court; gave the crown the right to appoint the governor. In New York, Captain Francis Nicholson was part of the group that helped dominate the colonies so in May 1689, Jacob Leisler, the leader of the NY dissidents raised a militia, captured the city fort, drove Nicholson into exile and proclaimed himself as the new head of governor. In Maryland, Lord Baltimore who sided with Catholic James II and opposed William and Mary so John Coode who supported Mary and William was an old opponent to Lord Baltimore made a rebellion and Mary and William signed a charter which stripped Lord Baltimore of his authority. Basically the colonies revived their representative assemblies and successfully thwarted the plan for colonial unification.

3) What were conditions like in Puritan Massachusetts Bay Colony?

The Massachusetts Puritans were not grim or joyless, they were, however serious and pious people. They had formed with the help of others the Congregational Church. Newcomers had a choice of conforming to the religious practices of the colonies or leaving. Many had left, helping to begin a process that would spread settlement throughout present-day New England and beyond. Thomas Hooker, a minister of Newtown, who defied the Massachusetts government in 1635 and led his congregation through the wilds to establish the town of Hartford. This town’s people with two other ones established a colonial government of their own and adopted a constitution known as the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. Roger Williams was a confirmed Separatist who argued that the Massachusetts church should abandon all allegiance to the Church of England. He called for a complete separation of church and state to protect the church from the corruption of the secular world. The colonial government banished him. He took refuge with Narragansett tribesmen; and later he created Rhode Island with his supporters. Anne Hutchinson antagonized the leaders of the colony and charged that all the ministers in Massachusetts except for two, were not among the elect (they didn’t undergone a conversion experience that they didn’t have the right to spiritual office. She developed a large following among women, to whom she offered an active role in religious affairs. She continued to go against the MA clergy and she was put on trial for heresy. She later moved to Rhode Island and then into New Netherland (NY) where she died to an Indian uprising. More religious disruptions in MA bay led John Wheelwright a disciple of Anne Hutchinson, led his supporters to New Hampshire and Maine remained a part of MA until 1820. Basically the conditions for MA were really rough as there were people speaking against the clergy. It was a theocratic society, where church and state are closely combined. MA bay was based on economics and Puritans establishing an ideal society.

4) How did the Navigation Acts and the Dominion of New England plant the earliest seeds of the American Revolution?